

## THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS INTERESTS

## WOMAN'S INQUIRY COLUMN

Letters to the Woman's Inquiry Column are invited. They should be addressed to Editor Woman's Inquiry Column, Washington Times, and should reach the office before Saturday to insure an answer the following week. Each letter must bear the full and correct signature and the address of the sender, not for publication, but merely as an evidence of good faith. Unsigned letters received will be ignored.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. How can I clean serif portieres? They are light green and cream. Can I wash them?

2. I have a white peau de cygne silk dress which I want to have dyed. What color do you think would be prettiest? I want it for the spring. E. D. G.

1. I do not think it will injure them to wash them carefully with soap and water. Squeeze them carefully; do not rub, and iron them while still damp.

2. I think one of the lovely shades of gray, so popular this spring, would be nice. If you want something for evening wear only, a pale corn color would be pretty, or a soft shade of green.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. What will soften coarse and thick hair? My hair is stubborn and curly and hard to comb.

2. Is it advisable for me to wash my hair often? And if so, what must I use after it?

3. Would you advise wetting my hair when combing it in the morning, or use some preparation, or comb dry? J. H.

1. Once in a fortnight rub a little vaseline well into the roots of the hair, and brush gently every night with a bottle brush for about ten minutes.

2. Wash it about once in two weeks and I do not think it would hurt it at all to dampen it when combing it in the morning.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

(1) Please tell me is sage tea a good tonic for the hair and how is it used?

(2) What is a good treatment for developing the neck and arms?

(3) Will orange flower cream cause the growth of superfluous hair?

(4) Please tell me something to remove superfluous hair? X. Y.

(1) Sage tea is said to darken the hair. It is applied with an ordinary hair brush.

(2) To improve the appearance of your neck and throat bathe them every night with warm water and then rub a good skin food well into the pores, and let it remain on all night. In the morning massage with cold water and dry briskly with a coarse towel. This treatment will in a short time transform leanness into a show of plumpness.

(3) I do not believe that orange flower cream will cause the growth of superfluous hair.

(4) I know of no sure remedy for the removal of superfluous hair except the electric needle and this is rather painful and expensive.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

(1) Will you kindly oblige me by telling me what will make the hair grow?

(2) Please give me some pretty way of fixing the hair besides parting it in the middle. I am a girl of fifteen and am not allowed to wear a pompadour.

(3) The following tonic is one of the best things I know of for promoting the growth of the hair. Rubbing vaseline into the scalp is also very beneficial.

Quinine hair tonic—Sulphate of quinine, 1 dram; rosewater, 3 ounces; dilute sulphuric acid, 15 minims; rectified spirits, 2 ounces. Mix the further. Glycerine, 1/4 ounce; essence royale or essence musk, 5 or 6 minims. Agitate until solution is complete. Apply to the roots of the hair every day.

(2) Try parting it on the side and rolling or puffing it.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

Please publish what to do for a red nose. It is exceedingly red in cold weather and after I wash my face. I am using glycerine and some water, but that does not reduce the color.

E. V. B.

If exposure to the cold is the cause of your ruddy nose try rubbing your

face well with a complexion brush before going out and you will transfer the color from your nose to your cheeks, as the brush stimulates the circulation and puts the color where it belongs.

Indigestion is also frequently at the bottom of a red nose in winter. Drink a cupful of hot water about a half an hour before breakfast and upon retiring at night and your digestion will be improved and thereby the color in your nose reduced.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

Being a constant reader of both the Sunday and Daily Times I beg leave to ask for a remedy that will remove freckles from the face.

W. L. G.

A remedy for obstinate freckles that will not injure the complexion is as follows: Oxide of zinc, 1/2 dram; suboxide of bismuth, 1/2 dram; dextrin, 1/4 dram; glycerine, 1/2 dram.

Spread the paste upon the freckles at night before going to bed. In the morning remove what remains with a little borax and sweet oil.

Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

Will you please tell me of an exercise or a proper massage that will develop the forearm, also tell me something that will refine the skin on the neck.

Mrs. H. T.

1. Exercise with dumbbells or Indian clubs will develop the forearm. Every night bathe them in warm water and then massage briskly with cold, giving a brisk rub with a rough towel. Massage with a good skin food is also good.

2. A good astringent lotion is as follows: Dried rose leaves, 1 ounce; white wine vinegar, 1/2 pint; rosewater, 1/2 pint. Pour the vinegar upon the rose leaves and let it stand for one week, then strain and add the rosewater, throwing the rose leaves away. The lotion may be used either pure or diluted by putting a tablespoonful into a cupful of rosewater. Do not keep in a metal vessel. Apply with a soft cloth or sponge at night before retiring after bathing the neck in warm water and massaging with cold for a few minutes.

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DAINTY AFTERNOON FROCK.

Pale blue Lainsdowne was the material employed in making this frock, the design for which is ideal for afternoon affairs or informal dances. The princess skirt is scalloped at top, fitting snugly at the waist and over hips, and finished at bottom with three deep tucks, topped by five smaller tucks. A yoke and tuck arrangement of all-over lace, edged with lace beading and Richelieu plaiting (a new and novel dress garniture), matching the gown forms the upper part of bodice, with small tucks confining the fullness over shoulders. The sleeves of elbow length are finished with cuffs of lace and plaiting.

## AN INEXPENSIVE SIMPLE WARDROBE FOR THE BABY

Practical Garments That One Actually Needs in the Layette.

Comparatively few dresses and underclothes are actually needed in the wardrobe of the new baby, and the simpler these are the greater comfort the little ones will enjoy. With the exception of the christening robe, the day slips and those of sheer nainsook for afternoon wear are practically plain. The latter can be as decorative in a simple way as the heart of the mother desires. They can be trimmed with lace, hand embroidery and tucks, using ribbons as fastenings, or finished with dainty hemstitching with no other ornamentation.

It is on the christening robe, however, that the mother's love will express itself most generously. It is work that she will be able and will want to do herself. If one can afford it, fine handkerchief linen is especially suitable for such a garment, or soft white silk is sometimes used, and soft mull, finest nainsook or India linen is always suitable. Miniature rosebuds embroidered about the yoke and sleeves, forget-me-nots, lilies of the valley or Empire wreaths are also especially suitable. Occasionally one of these little christening robes is made entirely of lace over a delicate shade of pink or light blue silk, but the preference is for white dresses as being most in keeping with the innocence of childhood.

## Size of Wardrobe.

A practical and inexpensive wardrobe for a small baby should include three undershirts of light wool or merino for the waist, three bands about eight inches wide of medium weight wool, either ribbed or plain; three flannel blankets with cambric waist band, hemstitched or pinked around the edges. The same number of flannellette skirts is necessary. These should be made with a loose yoke that hangs from the shoulders, leaving the body free so that there is no pressure on the heart, lungs, or stomach, and the little ones can stretch and expand as much as they want with nothing to bind them. These skirts can be prettily finished in hemstitching or with feather-stitching around the bottom.

Three white skirts in sheer lawn or nainsook can be included in the wardrobe, though they are not absolutely necessary in dressing the little one, yet on very warm spring days the baby will be more comfortable in them than with the heavier petticoats. They are made on exactly the same lines as the flannellette skirts, with a ruffle of fine lace or embroidery as a finish for the bottom. These, like all the other first clothes, should be made to fasten with ribbons or drawstrings without any buttons, for the latter often press into the flesh. No pins of any description, even safety, should ever be put in a young baby's clothing.

## Flannellette for Warmth.

For this season of the year three lightweight flannellette night gowns should be enough for everyday wear. They are made absolutely plain, open in the front and gathered on a flat drawstring or ribbon so that they will fit tight around the neck. If the child is restless, a sleeping blanket of light weight wool should be used so that the little one will be protected from taking cold even if it kicks off the covers. This sleeping blanket is simply made by sewing over one end of a large square piece of soft flannel so that the feet cannot get out, and then making two arms without any holes for the hands to get through. A drawstring at the neck completes the robe.

For morning wear there should be at

## Two Wrappers Sufficient.

If two simple wrappers of flannel are made they will be enough for ordinary use. They take the place of a bath robe and are worn each morning between the time the little one is taken from its bed until it is bathed. They, too, open down the front and are similar in style to the nightgowns with the difference of a small ruffle around the neck and at the bottom of the sleeves.

A bathing blanket of heavy fleece lined stockinette is necessary when the infant is taken from the tub and placed in this warm woolly blanket. While its flesh is patted dry. The warmth of this blanket keeps it from taking cold and feeling uncomfortable when half dry. Incidentally it absorbs the dampness and keeps the mother's clothes from getting wet.

There should be two soft lightweight sacks to slip on when the day is cool or when the little one is likely to be in a draught. These can be made on straight lines with the long, close fitting sleeves and a loose jacket, tied in front with ribbons or fashioned like a marmosette in a cape shape, with the sleeves made from the slits in the sides and prettily caught together with narrow baby ribbons. Scalloped around the edges and decorated with tiny blue forget-me-nots or rosebuds, they are decidedly pretty.

## Other Accessories.

For their feet these pairs of booties of crocheted or knitted yarn should be worn. They can be made like slippers and just cover the ankle or worked long to go half way up the leg. A flannel shawl should be included in this wardrobe that can be bought for from \$25 up.

When selecting the clothing a mother should be particularly choosy about the bedding for so much of the time the little one is sleeping that the bedding should be quite as comfortable as the garments it is to wear when awake. A soft mattress of a good quality of hair should be bought. A rubber sheet is placed over it and then a quilted pad or sort of comfort. Above these a sheet of soft linen. An upper sheet and a soft wool blanket, with some kind of a knitted throw should be sufficient covering. No pillow should be used to insure a straight back and the child should be kept lying flat on its back as much as possible.

When put in the first short clothes babies should wear shoes, or moccasins of chambray with soft soles. These boots should be placed loosely around the ankles. Merino stockings of half silk and wool are the best for keeping the little feet warm.

The second pair of shoes, or those worn when the little one begins to walk, should be of fine soft kid with real thin and pliable leather soles. These should be laced and not buttoned, for they can be more easily adjusted to fit the feet and ankles, and there is no danger of the buttons pressing into the flesh.

## AN EVENING FROCK

For a Dainty Debutante Which Can Be Made at Home.

Evening frocks for post-Lenten social functions are to be elaborately trimmed with narrow satin ribbon of the same variety and dotted necks will constitute the foundation, all of which will render the making of a pretty dancing gown at home a matter of but comparatively little moment.

Far superior to chiffon or the more delicate laces is the dainty dotted net material, and it is quite inexpensive, as it is two yards broad and eight yards long. It will be sufficient for an evening gown. It can be bought, a very good quality, for sixty-eight cents a yard, and that will amount to \$6.92.

To trim the three six-inch ruffles on the skirt, to head the top ruffle and prettily decorate the bodice, ten pieces of the narrow satin ribbon will be sufficient, and this will mean \$1.50 more. Instead of using silk for the drop skirt, unless one happens to have it in the house, some other one of the silky looking lining materials at 25 cents a yard will answer the purpose very nicely. Eight yards will be needed, and this will increase the sum \$2.00, which will make the dress cost in the neighborhood of \$8.92, everything included.

The costume is very simple in construction, being tucked down from the waist line to about fourteen inches below the fullness then being allowed to fall free. Four rows, in clusters of two, of the baby ribbon finish the ruffles and the satin number finish the top, rosettes of the ribbon catching the head of the dounce here and there. Several rows of the ribbon finish the top of the bodice and also trim the pretty puff sleeves. A soft grade of Liberty satin completes the costume. This makes one of the prettiest of party frocks for a young girl or debutante, and while it can be made up in colored net or decorated with light pink or blue ribbon, it is prettiest in white. And a girl can have the satisfaction of feeling herself as appropriately gowned as if the outfit cost \$100 or more, when in reality a ten dollar bill will entirely cover the cost if made at home.

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## Women's White Waists of Dotted Swiss

Entire front of fine tucks; full sleeve, deep cuff of tucks and lace insertion. Value, \$2.68. Special... \$1.98

## Women's White Lawn Waists

Entire front of lace insertion in medallion effect; full sleeve, trimmed with lace; cuff to correspond. Value, \$2.98. Special... \$2.48

## Piver's Le Trefle or Safranor Perfumes Tomorrow, 59c oz.

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WOMEN'S FINE BLACK COTTON SEAMLESS HOSE, high spliced heel and double toe. Warranted fast color. 25c value. Special for Sat... 17c

WOMEN'S FINE BLACK GAUZE LISLE HOSE, spliced selvage, high spliced heel and double toe. Hermsdorf dye. 35c value. Special for Sat... 35c

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